

# Department of Human Services

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## Canton foster mom to be tried

Judge finds her mentally competent

April 5, 2007

BY JACK KRESNAK

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A former foster mother charged with murder and child abuse in the September death of a 2-year-old foster child in her care is mentally competent to stand trial, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Both Carol Poole's defense attorney, Mark Satawa, and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey IV agreed with the assessment of a psychologist at the state Center for Forensic Psychiatry that Poole, 41, of Canton is competent to assist in her defense.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin set a May 16 hearing for any pretrial motions, including an expected motion from Satawa to challenge the admissibility of statements Poole made to police about the death of 2-year-old Allison Newman, the foster child in her care.

Two other forensic center reports, regarding Poole's criminal responsibility in the death and her mental ability to understand waiving her right to remain silent, may be under contention at the hearing.

Poole gave conflicting statements to police after Allison was found unresponsive in her room Sept. 20. She was taken off life support two days later; her organs were donated.

One of four stories Poole gave police involved playing a game she called whirly bird with Allison on the second-floor balcony of her home. Poole said she became dizzy and lost her grip on the child, who flew over the railing to the floor 12 feet below.

An autopsy done by Dr. Bader Cassin, the Washtenaw County medical examiner, found that Allison died of skull fractures, brain swelling and bleeding consistent with "a forceful strike at the back of the head against a hard surface." But Cassin, who did the autopsy because Allison was taken to an Ann Arbor hospital, could not say whether her death was the result of homicide or an accident.

Poole remains jailed without bond.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544.

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Thursday, April 05, 2007

Detroit News Wayne briefs

## **Canton: Woman faces trial in tot's death**

Carol Poole, 41, a Canton Township woman accused of murdering her 2-year-old foster daughter, was found mentally competent to stand trial by Wayne Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin on Wednesday. Poole and her husband, Alan, cared for Allison Newman for eight months before she died of blunt-force trauma to the head when she fell 12 feet from a second-floor balcony in the couple's upscale home Sept. 22. Poole faces life in prison on charges of felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter.

## No jail time in death of infant

Published Wednesday, April 4, 2007 4:50:30 PM Central Time

**By MARGARET LEVRA**

Ironwood Globe Staff Writer

BESSEMER -- "We all realize there was no intent to harm your child," Gogebic County Circuit Court Judge Roy Gotham told Richard Shinaway, 25, and Shannan Peterson, 24, on Tuesday as he ordered a 12-month delay of sentence in the Jan. 1, 2006, death of their infant daughter.

Gotham followed the recommendation of the Department of Corrections.

Shinaway and Peterson, both of Ironwood, were placed on probation and each was ordered to pay \$740 in fees and court costs.

After a year, Prosecutor Richard Adams may recommend dismissal of the felony charges, if all terms of the probation have been met. While on probation, neither can possess nor use alcohol or other intoxicants or controlled substances. They must comply with random drug and alcohol testing, and attend outpatient substance abuse counseling.

Both entered guilty pleas to a four-year felony count of child abuse, second-degree, on Jan. 30. Charges stem from the smothering death of their daughter, Madisen, after a New Year's Eve outing.

The baby was suffocated while sleeping between her parents in bed.

According to statements by Peterson and Shinaway, both were drunk and high at the time.

In assessing the same sentence to both, Gotham said, "I find no justification for treating the two of you differently in terms of sentence. There is little logic in sentencing defendant Shinaway more severely where he was the one who argued in the first place against taking Madisen home with them after their very late night of partying.

"A courtroom witnesses a great deal of human tragedy, and this case is among the very worst. In fact, it's hard to imagine anything more horrific than having your infant die of your actions."

Gotham said it's possible to be prosecuted for a serious crime, "even for what some may consider to be an all too common sort of negligence, when that negligence has very serious consequences.

"We most often see such prosecution where one is negligent while in control of a dangerous instrument like a car or a gun. But in this case, we see a prosecution in a very different situation, negligence not in taking control of something which is dangerous, but in taking control of someone who is very vulnerable, an infant child."

Both Shinaway and Peterson admitted being negligent to the point of reckless, and that their child died as a result, Gotham said.

The judge told Shinaway and Peterson that no penalty "can begin to compare with the horror you have already suffered by the very fact and nature of your child's death itself.

"Society gains nothing, not deterrence of others from such behavior, not even vindication of the law, by punishing you further, at least not if we assume that you will not continue such negligence."

Shinaway and Peterson have a son, born in January.

Adams didn't agree with the DOC recommendation completely. He objected to the delay of sentencing for Shinaway.

Adams said Shinaway has had a "long-standing affair with marijuana since 2003. At the time of his daughter's death, he was using marijuana while on probation for domestic violence."

He said Shinaway tested positive for THC (marijuana) in January. "It was the anniversary of his daughter's death, and he was still using pot," Adams said.

Adams said Shinaway was arrested on Sept. 3 for disorderly conduct after attacking his stepfather.

Also convicted of a misdemeanor of possession of marijuana, Peterson was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with the sentence to be served on alternating weekends beginning the weekend after Easter.

Shinaway was represented by public defender James McKenzie and Peterson by Ironwood attorney Michael Pope.



## Grant faces \$50-million wrongful death suit

April 5, 2007

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sister of Tara Lynn Grant, whose torso was found in her Washington Township garage last month, has filed a \$50-million wrongful death lawsuit against Stephen Grant, the suspect in his wife's killing.

Alicia Standerfer seeks to revoke Grant's claims to the couple's home, two life insurance policies naming him as his wife's beneficiary and a 401(k) plan, among other assets. Standerfer of Chillicothe, Ohio, was named Monday as personal representative of her sister's estate and conservator for her two children, ages 4 and 6.

"He left his two children without a mother or their home or any real sense of normalcy," Standerfer told the Macomb Daily for a report published today.

Grant, 37, is in jail awaiting a May 15 preliminary hearing on charges of murder and mutilation of a corpse. He is accused of killing his 34-year-old wife on Feb. 9 and later dismembering her body, parts of which were found in a park near their home.

Tara Grant's torso was found March 2. Stephen Grant was captured two days later in a state park at the northern tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The civil suit, filed in Macomb County Circuit Court, also seeks compensation for funeral, burial and other costs incurred by Tara Grant's family.

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## Tara's sister files wrongful death lawsuit

### She wants Grant to pay \$50 million

By Chad Halcom

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

The sister of Tara Lynn Grant of Washington Township seeks \$50 million damages in a wrongful death civil lawsuit filed Wednesday against Stephen Grant, her husband and accused killer.

Alicia Standerfer, Tara's sister and current guardian of her two small children, brought the lawsuit as representative of Tara's estate along with a related request in probate court to revoke Stephen's claims to the marital home, two life insurance policies naming him as her beneficiary and a 401(k) plan, among other assets.

"He left his two children without a mother, or their home or any real sense of normalcy," Standerfer said Wednesday of the court actions against her brother-in-law. "What he did goes so much further than affecting (Stephen and Tara). It affects his family, it affects (the children), it affects my husband, me, and everyone else in Tara's life."

Police and prosecutors maintain Mr. Grant, 37, strangled his wife to death in a fight the night of Feb. 9 after she returned from Puerto Rico, where she had been working much of the past several weeks. He then allegedly dismembered her body at a Mount Clemens tool and die shop his family owns and disposed of her body at parkland property near the couple's upscale home.

"By reason of (the alleged) killing, Plaintiff's decedent, Tara Lynn Grant, suffered extreme conscious anguish, pain and suffering of body and mind prior to her death," states the lawsuit, which was brought in Macomb Circuit Court.

"(And) by reason of the wrongful death of Tara Lynn Grant, her children as well as her other family members have suffered a loss of affection, comfort, companionship, love society and financial support ... which (Tara) was accustomed to give and would have given in the future but for her untimely demise."

#### Probate court action

Standfer was already appointed personal representative of Tara's estate and conservator for the children's financial affairs. Attorney Patrick Simasko also brought a petition Wednesday in Macomb Probate Court for forfeiture and revocation of all Stephen Grant's assets and possible benefits from the marriage.

Simasko explained that the wrongful death action also helps the family to go after or to preserve assets that may belong to Mr. Grant or remain at least partly under his control because he is still presumed innocent of any wrongdoing in her death in the criminal court proceedings.

At some point, he explained, Probate Judge Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan could issue a finding in the case that Mr. Grant is responsible for his wife's death, thereby cutting him off from any use of her assets or being able to benefit from her death.

"At the moment, because Alicia is personal representative, assets such as the home are sort of considered to be owned half by Alicia and half by Stephen. So he couldn't really sell it from under her. Neither can he do that without the other's consent," Simasko said.

"(But) particularly if there's a finding that Stephen is responsible for Tara's death, then in a legal sense it's as if he died first, before her. All the assets are essentially in her name entirely and go to the (heirs of beneficiaries) of her estate."

The civil lawsuit also seeks compensation for funeral and burial costs, and other losses to Tara's family. The probate court action claims Tara had named her husband as a beneficiary of "certain life insurance policies" through The Prudential and CIGNA, as well as the 401(k) retirement fund, the marital home and various stocks and bonds belonging to the family.

Stephen Donovan, an attorney for Stephen Grant in a separate abuse and neglect proceeding against him in the county juvenile court, said he had heard a civil lawsuit might be coming but he hadn't seen it yet and couldn't comment on it.

"It's possible that case could be a means to help freeze his assets," Donovan said. "But I don't really handle cases like that and he might need to get another attorney."

Whether Grant can do that remains to be seen, as he is currently relying on two court-appointed attorneys assigned to him by Macomb County Chief Circuit Judge Antonio P. Viviano to defend him in his criminal case.

Defense has options

Criminal attorney Gail Pamukov said the defense is still "exploring our options at this point" regarding whether to appeal a Tuesday decision by 42-1 District Judge Denis LeDuc on public access to a police interview where Grant implicates himself in the slaying. A decision should be coming soon, she indicated.

Pamukov also she and co-counsel Stephen Rabaut have not received any more discovery material in the case than the original 448 pages and 15 CDs sent by the prosecutor's office. The defense is expecting hundreds more pages and a total of 22 CDs.

Simasko obtained a hearing date in the Probate Court proceedings May 16, close to the time when Tara's family would be on hand in Michigan for the preliminary examination. The Standerfer family remains in Michigan at the moment while the state Department of Human Services still has jurisdiction over the children, and it was unclear whether the family would be free to return to their home in Chillicothe, Ohio, by then.

Grant faces charges of first-degree murder and disinterment or mutilation of a corpse in the slaying, and awaits a conference date April 17 and a May 15 preliminary examination on those criminal charges.

But in the weeks before his arrest, while the case was under investigation, he was able to retain prominent local defense attorney David Griem and was found at least once by police with sizable amounts of cash on hand. But if Stephen Grant has trouble raising a defense or holding onto his assets right now, Standerfer said, she doesn't sympathize.

"To him I would just say, 'Tough luck'," she said. "If he's in a position where times are hard for him right now, his kids don't have their family at all and this was entirely his own doing."

Macomb Daily Staff Writer Jameson Cook contributed to this report

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## Utica mom let men have sex with teen daughter, cops say

### 21-year-olds allegedly had sex with another minor at home

By Gordon Wilczynski  
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Police say the mother of a 14-year-old girl, who is pregnant for the third time, has been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and second-degree child abuse for allowing two men to have sex with her daughter.

Utica police have also charged two 21-year-old Macomb County men with having sex with the girl and another 14-year-old girl.

The mother, whose name The Macomb Daily is not publishing to protect the identity of the girl, is being held in Macomb County Jail in lieu of a \$1 million bond set by Magistrate Michael Osaer of the 41A District Court.

Christopher Michael Garcia and James Edward Przeadzki, both 21, pleaded not guilty Tuesday and are also jailed in lieu of \$1 million bonds.

Police said Garcia, a convicted sex offender, also was charged with failing to register as a convicted sex offender.

"During interviews with the two suspects they both said the mom knows all about the relationship because of her daughter's two prior pregnancies," said Utica Detective Sgt. Dave Faber, who added that Social Services is now involved in the case.

The girl, formerly of Harrison Township, made national news two years ago after she portrayed herself as an older girl on the MySpace Web site. She then traveled to Indiana with a man who told police he believed she was at least 18 years old. Police found the couple, and released the man because they believed his story that he thought the girl was 18 years old.

Faber said the girl then met Garcia and started a sexual relationship with him.

"He moves in with the girl and her mother, and (he's) having sex with her all of the time," Faber said. "She has become pregnant from him a couple of times and lost both fetuses due to a miscarriage."

The girl, police said, is pregnant once again.

The father of the other 14-year-old girl told police his daughter was having sexual relations with Przeadzki.

"Our officers questioned the (men) and Garcia admits to having sexual relations with the first girl," said Faber. "Przeadzki admitted having a sexual affair with both 14-year-old girls."

Faber said both girls were often left unsupervised in the apartment. The mother knows Garcia is a convicted sex offender and allowed him to have contact with her daughter, Faber added.

"The woman works, but did nothing to protect her own daughter," Faber said.

# Niles Daily Star

## ONLINE EDITION

[Print Page](#)

### Motel site of meth lab

By KATHIE HEMPEL / Niles Daily Star  
Wednesday, April 4, 2007 10:54 AM EDT

NILES - A 10-year-old girl has been turned over to the Department of Human Services for foster care after a methamphetamine lab was discovered at 2483 Yankee St., Forlers Motel, in Howard Township.

F/Lt. Michael Brown Niles Post of the Michigan State Police said that the girl and her mother lived in Unit No. 2, where the building components for a small meth lab were discovered along with a small quantity of methamphetamine.

Troopers from the Niles Post were visiting the residence Monday at approximately 1 p.m. with a parole officer from the Michigan Department of Corrections to insure James Owens, 41, of that address, was following the terms of his parole while in the State of Michigan.

Owens had moved in with the mother and her daughter a month ago. His parole was transferred from Indiana about the same time.

Owens and the mother, who has not been identified, have multiple charges pending with the Cass County Prosecutors Office as a result of the bust. Charges involve the alleged possession of methamphetamine and operating and maintaining a methamphetamine laboratory, according to Brown.

Troopers from the Niles post contacted the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) to dismantle and dispose of the hazardous materials from the methamphetamine lab.

"Pseudoephedrine as found in medicines for the common cold, Coleman fuel, drain cleaner and lithium batteries were among the items seized. These are all the precursors for a small meth lab," F/Lt. Brown said.

The meth problem is small and intermittent in the greater Niles area, Brown added. Pseudoephedrine laws, which have placed the drugs behind the pharmacy counter seem to have had a big impact on those trying to obtain the components, he said.

The laws enacted Dec. 15, 2005, restricts the sale of any product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to persons over the age of 18. Personal possession of no more than 13 grams is allowed.

Final charges against Owens and his female companion are expected to be released by late today or Thursday.



D/Lt. Hinz from the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) is shown removing meth components and evidence from a room at the Forlers Motel Tuesday in Howard Township on



## Grandma explains medical marijuana use

FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**BURTON**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Thursday, April 05, 2007

**JOURNAL READER**

To all the people who are wondering why that lady in the paper did not quit her medical marijuana so she could see her grandchild, this is why ["Pot projections: Little change expected from Flint vote approving medical marijuana," March 12, Page A1]. During the custody hearing in front of Judge Weiss, I did offer to take a drug test. I also offered to go back on the drug Marinol so my grandchild could keep some stability in her life. Judge Weiss said no. I also made the same offer on at least two other occasions, and again I was denied.

Child Protective Services was also on this case. CPS also knew of my use of marijuana for my medical reasons and it had no problem leaving the child in my care. The father in this case also knew of my usage and he had no problem leaving the child with me from the age of 2 weeks.

I have not seen my grandbaby in more than seven months. I hope this letter will help clear up some of the questions that have come to my attention because of the article on the vote for medical marijuana. I am a good grandmother and I would put down my medical marijuana in an instant to see my grandbaby.

Barb Hoos

Burton

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Michigan Report

April 4, 2007

## **AUDIT: CHILD SUPPORT UNIT MUST BETTER MONITOR SERVICE PROVIDER**

The Michigan State Disbursement Unit in the Department of Human Services is effective in monitoring its contract with service providers as well as making sure the receipt and disbursement of child support payments are on time and correct, but there are still reportable conditions that could be improved, according to an audit released Wednesday by Auditor General Thomas McTavish.

The performance [audit](#), which examined records from May 2005 to May 2006, found DHS is effective in monitoring its contract with service providers but needs to improve the oversight of the provider's quality assurance process so its results are documented, accurate and complete.

Improving the methodology, sampling and documentation of the quality assurance process ensures the provider complies with federal requirements. The disbursement unit needs to require the service provider document the population it uses in its testing process and also require the provider to document its quality assurances process that ensure only payments that need accurate information are being sent to the disbursement unit.

DHS said in the audit it agrees with the findings and will make the necessary changes.

The audit also said the disbursement unit is effective in making sure that the receipt and distribution of child support payments were on time and correct but that the disbursement unit didn't make sure the service provider was in contact with people making payments when more information was needed to post the payment. The audit examined 16 payment cases where more information was needed and found in 12, the service provider didn't make telephone contact within a business day.

In its initial response DHS said that it's working on implementing the recommendation. Under statute, DHS has 60 days to file a formal response to the audit.

The audit also found that DHS needs to make sure that its service provider is compliant with requirements that prohibit conflicts of interest and the disbursement unit didn't make sure the service provider had policies in place to prohibit employees from posting child support payments to restricted child support cases. The disbursement unit's contract with the service provider prohibits employees from accessing their own or any family member's child support docket or records. The audit also states that the disbursement unit didn't make sure the service provider was monitoring the activities of employees with conflicts of interest.

DHS in the audit said it has already complied with the recommendation.

The audit found that the disbursement unit is effective in resolving unidentified child support remittances and didn't have any reportable conditions.

## **Auditor General Reports**

MIRS, April 4, 2007

Auditor General Thomas **McTAVISH** today released the following audit:

- The Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) effectively collects and disburses child support remittances in accordance with the federal child support enforcement program requirements. The MiSDU operates under the state Department of Human Services (DHS).



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published April 5, 2007

## Foster brother held in teen's death

Police are still probing shooting of 14-year-old

### No ID yet

- Lansing police have not released the name of the 14-year-old fatal shooting victim because the victim's next of kin have yet to be notified.

By Kevin Grasha  
Lansing State Journal

The 15-year-old foster brother of a teenage boy shot to death Tuesday afternoon is being held at a youth home while authorities determine whether to file charges.

Police are not releasing the names of either the victim, who was 14, or his foster brother. They also would not provide more details about the shooting.

Three boys - all of them foster brothers - were in an apartment at 319 E. Hillsdale St. when the shooting happened, Lt. Bruce Ferguson said. Police received the call at about 3:10 p.m.

The boys were at the home of a relative of their foster parents.

Paramedics took the boy to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Investigators are still trying to determine if the shooting near downtown Lansing was an accident or intentional.

Detectives and the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office are reviewing the case.

Wednesday evening, some three dozen neighborhood residents met with Mayor Virg Bernero and police officials at the Michigan Retailers Association building.

"I think people understood this for what it was," Bernero said. It was "not a random act of violence. It was kind of a family spat between these brothers, a very tragic thing.

"There was a great deal of remorse and sympathy for this youngster," he added, "but I didn't get the sense that people feel violence is rampant through the community."

The 15-year-old is being held at the Ingham County Youth Center.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or [kgrasha@lsj.com](mailto:kgrasha@lsj.com).

Detroit Free Press  
April 5, 2007

## **COUNTY-WIDE: U.S. audit of foster care cases finds few errors**

A recently completed federal audit of state foster care cases of poor children -- most of which were in Wayne County -- found few errors, meaning the state will not have to repay the federal government millions of dollars.

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Clifford Taylor and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano announced this week that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found four errors in a sampling of 150 of the state's 19,000 foster cases.

None of the errors was attributed to mistakes made in court orders, Taylor said in a letter to court administrators and judges. The new audit of Title IV-E funds, which pay about half the cost of foster care for poor children, came after a 2004 review found significant errors in a smaller sample.

Compiled by John Masson, Cecil Angel and Jack Kresnak.

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Article published Apr 5, 2007  
GEORGE AWARDS 2007  
Foster children find 'Home,' hope  
**Lori Holcomb**  
*The Enquirer*

Wanda Miller came to Battle Creek in 1994 looking for something better to do with her life. The New York native not only found a way to fill her days with joy, but shined a hopeful light for teens also looking for a brighter future.

In 2005, Miller began "A Home for Me," a 32-week program which helps foster kids transition to an independent life after aging out of the foster care system. For her dedication to giving students a real-world education, she has been honored with a 2006 George Award.

Between working on a master's degree in counseling, holding a full-time job at the Community Action Agency and raising six children, it's hard to believe the 35-year-old has time to run A Home for Me. But Miller finds time to help the community and still play bingo, watch "American Idol," take trips and spend time with her family.

In fact, her family inspired her to start the program. After her nephews graduated high school and aged out of foster care, they suddenly had no plans, no home and no future besides receiving public assistance.

"I thought, these are two healthy, young men. They need to be doing something," Miller said.

She began putting ideas on paper in 2000, and five years later began holding classes for teens 14 to 18. Along with local business employees and volunteers, she teaches basic skills in employment training, money management, health, safety and locating housing. Additionally, all students are participating in local internships.

By the time Miller reaches youths, many have already gone through dozens of homes. She said without a solid family structure, even children with caring foster parents can get left behind.

"They have no one encouraging them and pushing them to be ready for college or jobs," Miller said. "They're often so busy putting out old fires that they don't have time to prevent new ones."

She said all program graduates now have jobs, three are homeowners and some have come back to volunteer for the program.

Miller's giving goes beyond the walls of the student center on Upton Avenue. Her dedication to helping families and co-workers exceeds her job's normal expectations, said Debbie Bedard, Community Action Agency program operations director.

"Wanda is one of those people that really cares about the families she serves," Bedard said. "She's there to help train, there to make sure families' needs are met, and there to help others with their caseloads in addition to hers."

With so much on her plate, Miller said her greatest challenge is managing her time. She said a little divine assistance pushes her to fully dedicate herself to each project.

"I get by on the grace of God," she said. "I see something that has to be done, so I do it."

Miller said receiving a George Award was a great honor, but seeing the impact on her 9-year-old daughter is one of the greatest gifts.

"I hear her brag to her friends at school, 'My mom has her own business'," Miller said. "Knowing my babies are learning gives me joy."

*Lori Holcomb can be reached at 966-0675 or [lholcomb@battlecr.gannett.com](mailto:lholcomb@battlecr.gannett.com).*

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04/03/2007

## State suspends AFC home license

Kate Finneren-Hessling , The Huron Daily Tribune

**PIGEON** — The Michigan Department of Human Services announced today they are immediately suspending the Adult Foster Care Large Group Home License of Scenic AFC Home, Inc., located at 7651 W. Pigeon Road in Pigeon.

According to a DHS press release, the Office of Children and Adult Licensing issued an order of summary suspension and notice of intent to revoke the home's license after a recent investigation of a complaint of the Scenic AFC Home.

Judith Stokan, the licensee designee and home administrator, said the state has taken licensing actions based on unsubstantiated claims by some past and current disgruntled employees.

"Unfortunately the state didn't take the time to talk to hundreds of individuals whose loved ones have stayed at Scenic Home," she said. "... I am aware of no complaints from family members, residents or physicians of any past or present (adults) of the Scenic Home."

The DHS press release states the March 22 complaint investigation found violations of the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act and/or administrative rules regarding resident behavior interventions prohibitions; resident care/licensee responsibilities; resident protection; staffing requirements; use of assistive devices; investigation and reporting of incidents, accidents, illnesses, absences and death; resident admission criteria; and qualifications of administrator.

"The Office of Children and Adult Licensing took emergency action to protect the health, welfare and safety of vulnerable adults," reads the press release.

"This is hard for me to understand with all the one-sided allegations against me, (why) they have allowed me to stay with residents over night," Stokan said. "If emergency action (was) required, then how come they let me stay with the residents over night."

The release states, however, effective 9 a.m. Tuesday, the Summary Suspension Order prohibits Stokan from operating an adult foster care large group home at 7651 Pigeon Road in Pigeon, or at any other address or location.

Accordingly, the release says, she may not accept physically handicapped, developmentally disabled, mentally ill and aged adults for care after that date and time.

The order also requires Stokan to inform all of the guardians of adults in her care that her

license has been suspended and she can no longer provide adult foster care.

Stokan has held a license to operate an adult foster care large group home since Feb. 23, 1994. The license was for 17 residents.

Michigan law defines an adult foster care large group home as, “an adult foster care facility with the approved capacity to receive at least 13, but not more than 20, adults to be provided with foster care.”

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# The Daily Telegram

[Print Page](#)

THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2007 Last modified: *Wednesday, April 4, 2007 5:27 PM EDT*

## Man shoots woman, self

A man is dead and a woman remains in critical condition after a domestic violence incident.

By [David Panian](#)

Daily Telegram Staff Writer

WOODSTOCK TWP. — A Cement City man took his own life Tuesday evening after shooting his girlfriend in an apparent domestic violence incident at their Wheaton Road home.

Timothy Zielinski, 36, was pronounced dead at the scene of the shooting, and Tracey Jean McTigue, 31, was in critical condition this morning at a Toledo hospital, Lenawee County Sheriff Larry Richardson said.

Richardson said the shooting was discovered by McTigue's mother at 7:44 p.m., who had just returned home. She entered the house and found her daughter lying in a pool of blood. She called 911, then found Zielinski's body in another room of the small house near U.S. 12.

Addison Fire Department paramedics found that McTigue was alive, and a medical helicopter was called to the scene to take her to a trauma center. Richardson said she had been shot once with a handgun, as had Zielinski.

In a statement Richardson said detectives' preliminary investigation determined that McTigue and Zielinski's relationship was not on the best of terms. The exact time of the shooting is not known, but investigators believe it happened between 5:30 p.m. and the time McTigue's mother returned home.



DOUBLE SHOOTING: Timothy Zielinski shot himself and his girlfriend, who is in critical condition this morning, at their Wheaton Road home. — Telegram photo by Mike Calamungi

-- CLOSE WINDOW--



# THE BAY CITY TIMES

## Rash of domestic violence yields variety of charges against three men

Thursday, April 05, 2007

By **CRYSTAL HARMON**

**TIMES WRITER**

Three Bay County men are in jail and three women are recovering from a variety of injuries after a recent spate of brutal instances of domestic violence.

Taurean Jenkins, 24, was charged Monday with assault with intent to commit murder, extortion and assault with a dangerous weapon; the charges carry maximum penalties, upon conviction, of life, 20 years and four years in prison, respectively.

Jenkins is accused of stabbing his 30-year-old live-in girlfriend in the back of the head and on the thighs with a flat-head screwdriver on Saturday.

Bay City Police responded to neighbor's reports of screams at the apartment in the 1200 block of Johnson Street around 1:30 a.m. At first, the victim told police a stranger had attacked her on the street. A police officer found blood on the walls and sheets in the couple's bedroom, and the woman later told the officer that Jenkins had beat and stabbed her with the screwdriver.

Police also confiscated a baseball bat and golf club that the alleged victim said Jenkins had used to beat her on previous occasions and a hand-saw the women had hidden in the refrigerator because she said Jenkins had threatened her with it.

Jenkins' address is listed in jail records as the Tradewinds Apartments in Essexville, although neighbors said he'd been living with the alleged victim and told police the pair often fought.

Bay County District Judge Timothy J. Kelly set Jenkins' bond at \$250,000 and set April 10 as the date for a preliminary examination of the evidence.

Also, on Monday, Jerry L. Rios, 19, of 309 Webster, was charged with home invasion in the first and second degrees and aggravated domestic violence. The home invasion charges carry maximum sentences of 20 and 15 years and aggravated domestic violence is punishable by up to a year in jail upon conviction.

Rios is charged with breaking into his ex-girlfriend's trailer home in the 2800 block of Stratford, in Bangor Township, around 5:30 a.m. Sunday. Michigan State Police troopers from the Bay City post arrested Rios near Bay Regional Medical Center, where he drove the 20-year-old victim for treatment for a broken nose and a lacerated lip. Rios had blood on his hands and clothes, according to the state police report.

Bay County District Judge Scott J. Newcombe set bond at \$50,000. Rios told police he'd just gotten out of jail on a previous domestic violence charge involving the same victim, and part of his probation terms required that he have no contact with the victim.

In a third case, Jerry C. Aikens, 27, who lists addresses in court records as 810 Taylor St. and 103 Pebble Court, was arraigned Friday on three charges stemming from an alleged assault a week ago. He's charged with extortion, a 20-year-felony; interfering with a telephone call causing injury, a four-year felony; and domestic violence, second offense, which is punishable, upon conviction, by up to one year in jail.

Judge Newcombe arraigned Aikens and set bond at \$25,000 and an evidence hearing date of April 12. Aikens is accused of threatening and choking his 36-year-old ex-girlfriend. He allegedly told Bay City Police responding to the reported assault in the 800 block of Taylor that he's taking anger management classes mandated by the court and that the class is helping him, so he was able to stop himself from choking the

alleged victim.

Throughout Bay County since Friday, police and sheriff's deputies responded to at least 40 calls reporting incidents of domestic violence, according to law enforcement incident logs.

Bay County Sheriff John E. Miller said addressing domestic violence is a constant battle, since victims often protect their abusers.

"They'll come to court and say that it never happened," Miller said, of some of the victims' testimony. "Then the best we can do if they've changed their testimony is charge (the victim) with lying under oath."

- Crystal Harmon covers Bay County law enforcement and courts for The Times. She can be reached at 894-9643 or by e-mail at [charmon@bc-times.com](mailto:charmon@bc-times.com).

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### Woman arrested on 2nd assault charge

Thursday, April 05, 2007

#### From News staff reports

Just hours after being released from jail on a domestic assault charge, a 21-year-old Ann Arbor woman was arrested again after city police say she threw items at her ex-boyfriend and poured peroxide in his eyes.

The couple recently ended their relationship, but continued to live together until one of them can make arrangements to move out, police said.

On Wednesday, the woman was released from jail after her arrest the day before on a domestic violence charge involving the same 20-year-old man. Details of that incident were not available this morning.

In Wednesday's incident, the man told police he was inside their home in the 1700 block of Tudor Drive at 2:30 p.m. when she began yelling that she wanted to get a restraining order against him. He said she became enraged when he ignored her and started picking up items and throwing them at him, according to police reports.

The man tried to walk out, but the woman blocked the doorway, and she poured peroxide on his head and in his eyes, police said. He ran to the sink to rise his eyes and call police, reports said.

The woman told police she was tired after spending the night in jail and just wanted him to leave. She said she threw items at him, he pushed her, and she poured the peroxide, reports said. The couple's 1-year-old child also was in the home at the time, reports said.

The woman was arrested, and police are seeking a charge of domestic felonious assault.

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## Boy accused in Florida beating to be held until trial

Thursday, April 05, 2007

By Kameel Stanley

The Grand Rapids Press

The 10-year-old boy with West Michigan roots who is facing charges in Florida in the beating of a homeless man will remain in a juvenile detention center until he goes to trial later this month.

The boy, who until last fall lived with his parents in Wyoming, is thought to be one of three youths responsible -- along with another 10-year-old and 17-year-old Jeremy Woods -- for severely beating a homeless Army veteran March 27 in Daytona Beach.

All three boys are charged with aggravated battery. Only Woods is being prosecuted as an adult and could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

In a court hearing this week, State Circuit Judge John W. Watson ordered the boys held until an April 17 trial, despite claims by their parents and lawyers that they and Woods were acting in self-defense against a belligerent drunk when they beat and smashed a chunk of concrete in the face of 57-year-old John D'Amico.

Police have said the boys attacked D'Amico, and he says the beating was unprovoked.

Despite being charged with a felony, the 10-year-olds are too young to be tried as adults, said Linda Pruitt, spokeswoman for Florida State Attorney John Tanner.

Under Florida law, a child usually has to be at least 14 to be considered an adult in criminal cases.

If the incident happened in Michigan, officials said they probably would handle the case the same way.

"You certainly have an issue when a 10-year-old thinks they can do this type of thing," said Vicki Seidl, senior attorney for Kent County's juvenile division.

"The charging of everybody is in line with what we would've done here."

Seidl said there are seven or eight factors authorities examine when considering whether to try a juvenile as an adult in Michigan.

The juvenile's age is the primary factor, she said, with the rest including the seriousness of the crime, rehabilitation efforts and any prior contact the offender had with the police and courts.

"Generally, we don't consider it until 15 or 16 (years old)," she said.

As for punishment, juveniles rarely end up in prison or jail. Most end up on probation, Seidl said, some until their 19th birthday.

"The whole scheme of the juvenile system in our state ... is rehabilitation," she said.

**The Associated Press contributed to this story.**

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April 5, 2007

## Health care costs hitting middle class

Group says Michigan is nation's second worst in rising premiums, soaking more of families, businesses' incomes.

**Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News**

Michigan health insurance premiums increased 66.4 percent between 2000 and 2006, while median incomes grew 7.7 percent, making Michigan second worst in the nation, a national health care advocate told local health care leaders Wednesday.

"Premiums are absorbing a larger and larger portion of family budgets and the same is true for business," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a Washington, D.C., organization working to get health insurance for all Americans. "As a result, there are a lot of businesses that can't sustain health care coverage. More and more businesses are passing on costs to their workers."

Additionally, Pollack said, workers are paying more in premiums, co-payments and deductibles, and public programs such as Medicaid are among of the fastest growing items in state budgets.

"All of these combined create an increase in the number of uninsured," Pollack said.

Pollack spoke before health leaders preparing for Cover the Uninsured Week, an event to be held across the nation April 23-29 to raise awareness about the plight of the 44.8 million uninsured Americans.

Michigan has 1.5 million uninsured residents, including 160,000 children.

Doug Halladay, director of the events in Michigan, buys his own health insurance and this week got a bill for his premium that jumped from \$625 a month to \$790 a month. The jump in his policy, which covers him and his wife, points to the health insurance crisis starting to affect the middle class.

"It's not just a problem for the poor," Halladay said. "This could be the No. 1 issue for the next president to take on because the rising cost of health care in proportion to income is going off the charts."

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## Church to conduct giveaway at soup kitchen

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

**FLINT**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Thursday, April 05, 2007

**By George Jaksa**

**JOURNAL STAFF WRITER**

Ebenezer Ministries of Burton will give away children's and adult clothing, personal care items, shoes, toys and books from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at the North End Soup Kitchen, 735 E. Stewart Ave.

Michelle Gray of the church's Blessed to Be a Blessing Outreach said the giveaway will be conducted inside and outside the soup kitchen, weather permitting.

- George Jaksa

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## State senator says DHS can't take additional cuts

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

**FLINT**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Thursday, April 05, 2007

**By Ron Fonger**

**JOURNAL STAFF WRITER**

State Sen. John Gleason, D-Flushing, said Wednesday that the state shouldn't cut any deeper into the Department of Human Services despite the current budget crisis.

Gleason said at a news conference that DHS has shown it is already overburdened - particularly in the area of protective services for children.

He said the case of the late Rose Kelley, a 5-year-old girl who died June 3 in what police and social workers called a filthy, lice-infested Flint home, showed DHS already is overburdened.

Gleason said Senate Republicans are pushing to cut more than \$20 million from the department in 2008.

- Ron Fonger

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# THE DAILY Reporter

**Print this story**

## Granholm: State won't cut essential services

**Print Page**

By Roland Stoy-Staff writer

LANSING — Gov. Jennifer Granholm is not planning to shut state government down, nor will there be a temporary halt to any essential services, aide Liz Boyd said Tuesday.

With a \$940-million deficit, the state is facing a cash flow shortage of some \$400 million by May 1, and some news reports have suggested a state government shutdown, others a temporary and partial shutdown.

"What the governor is saying to department heads," said Boyd, "is that we need to have a contingency plan in place if the state runs out of money."

Granholm has asked department heads to tell her what programs might be affected and what steps should be taken if the state runs out of money.

Some Republican legislators, according to the Associated Press, have suggested a "scare tactic" on the part of the governor to get them to go along with her program.

"The money issue is real. This is not a fabricated crisis," Boyd said. "The governor has made it clear for months the emergency we're facing. We're asking departments to identify what could be involved and what steps must be taken."

Marianne Udow, director of the Department of Human Services, told the Detroit Free Press a partial shutdown of state government would amount to a total shutdown of her department, which handles welfare and child protective services in Michigan.

She said her 10,000 employees are already pressed to serve their clients, with each welfare worker handling about 600 cases. Protective services workers, who investigate child abuse and neglect, handle about 40 cases each.

"If we don't have money to provide services, the workload is intolerable. I truly believe we are putting children in jeopardy even with the current budget," said Udow.

Other options, according to news reports, include:

- n A delay in scheduled payments to Medicaid providers, colleges and universities, public schools or local governments. State Treasurer Robert Kleine said it's likely this will be at least part of the solution, because most of the state's money is tied up in these areas.

- n Borrowing from other sources in state government, such as one of the Department of Natural Resources trust funds. The money would have to be returned within this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

- n Shutting down some parts of state government, such as Secretary of State offices, the State Library and Historical Museum, and agriculture programs. Offices, programs and services could be closed for days or weeks and employees could be temporarily laid off.

Kleine told the Free Press the state can't get a bank loan because it already brushed up against the constitutional limit for the budget year when it borrowed \$1.3 billion last November.

Former deputy budget director Patrick Anderson said, in a Detroit News story, by even discussing government shutdowns and "We could be paying the highest interest rates in more than a decade to borrow money. Lending money to Michigan will be seen as risky because we've openly discussed not paying it back," he said. "There is no reason why any properly managed state should go bankrupt or have payless paydays."

The last time that happened was 1959, when then Gov. G. Mennen Williams pushed through a sales tax increase that the Michigan Supreme Court later found unconstitutional.

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## **DHS Wins Award**

MIRS, April 4, 2007

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Leadership Academy has been selected as one of the Top 50 programs in the 2007 Innovations in American Government Awards competition. The program was selected from nearly 1,000 applications and will be considered for a \$100,000 grant.

The DHS Leadership Academy selects high potential leaders and accelerates their professional skill development through a two-year intensive program to prepare them for high-level positions at DHS. Academy participants are trained in a broad range of leadership competencies rather than being groomed for particular positions.